

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1. – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A method of lacing a generally toroidal coil comprising the steps of:

- supporting said coil on an angularly rotating support,
- providing a needle having an open eye, said needle having an axis and being rotatable about its axis and being radially and axially movable relative to said toroidal coil to enter and leave a region defined inside a perimeter of said coil;

- providing a feeder source for providing a lacing cord, wrapping the lacing cord around the needle while the needle is moving radially relative to the toroidal coil, before the needle leaves the region defined inside the perimeter of said coil.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

- positioning said feeder relative to said needle so that a feeder axis is generally parallel with the needle axis;
- rotating said feeder about the axis of said needle with an average angular speed that is twice an average angular speed of rotation of the needle about its axis;
- depositing the cord into engagement with the needle's eye, near the end of a radial stroke of the needle towards the center of the toroidal coil.

11. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the angular speed of the feeder and said angular speed of rotation of the needle about its axis are constant.

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the wrapping of the cord onto the needle is carried out during a feeder rotation by 360° and a needle rotation by 180°.

13. (New) A method as claimed in claim 10, further including the steps of:

- performing a tying knot;
- hooking the cord at a cycle end;
- automatically positioning the cord end into the needle's eye and cutting the cord.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coil is a stator coil in a brushless electric motor.

15. (New) Apparatus for lacing a generally toroidal coil, comprising:

- a support for said coil, wherein said support is capable of angularly rotating the coil;
- a needle having an open eye, said needle having an axis and being rotatable about its axis and being radially and axially movable relative to said toroidal coil to enter and leave the region defined inside a perimeter of said coil;
- a feeder source for providing a source of lacing cord,
- an eccentric control assembly for displacing said feeder about the axis of said needle at a speed twice a rotation speed of the needle.

16. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said eccentric control assembly includes two plates slidable in vertical and horizontal direction, respectively.